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### Opinion

## Bird-X helped rid UNK of crows; Reds' stadium is next

Hub opinion

02/19/2008

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Think back to the early 1990s in Kearney, and two events are certain to emerge. One was the windstorm of 1993, which leveled thousands of trees and destroyed several homes. The other was the crow infestation of 1991.

Whereas the windstorm left its path of destruction in less than 30 minutes, the crow infestation endured for most of the winter. Before it ended, roosting crows had wrecked hundreds of trees and soiled thousands of homes, sidewalks and automobiles. It was a disgusting time. Adding to the frustration was our community's inability to chase away the black flocks.

They just lingered, and our town got sloppier, slipperier and more fed up.

The University of Nebraska at Kearney faced the most difficult dilemma. The campus was so attractive to the crows that many students popped open umbrellas to run between buildings. The birds didn't appreciate UNK's aesthetic quality. They distributed droppings everywhere.

UNK could not safely discharge shotguns, as some Kearneyites attempted, to frighten away the crows. UNK's best bet was science, so it enlisted a Chicago company, Bird-X, to get rid of the crows.

Bird-X installed ultrasonic and sonic repellers — devices that produced high- and low-frequency sound waves to annoy the crows or to scare them into believing predators were nearby. In addition to sound repellers, staff sprayed trees with non-toxic, tacky bird repellent, and positioned huge spheres with holographic owl faces around the campus.

Three months later, the crows were gone.

Today, Bird-X is working at the Great American Ball Park, where the Cincinnati Reds play. Thousands of pigeons and starlings had invaded the place. Bird-X's mission: rid the park of birds so only infielders are covering the bases.

### Nominate a caring nurse

Anyone who has been hospitalized or in need of health care recognizes the huge role that nurses play in keeping people healthy, assisting with recovery from illness or injury and providing support at the beginning and end of life.

Every nurse makes a difference for someone, but some nurses go so far above and beyond that they merit recognition. That's why the Nebraska Center for Nursing is asking for the public's assistance.

NCFN wants to recognize and reward nurses who have really made a difference in the lives of Nebraskans.

NCFN is accepting nominations for its "Nurses Who Make a Difference" recognition program, which is in its second year. Any RN or LPN is eligible. All that's necessary to submit a nomination is some specific information on how the nurse performed in an extraordinary manner, beyond his/or her regular scope of nursing care. Nomination deadline is April 15.

Last year nearly 300 nurses were recognized.



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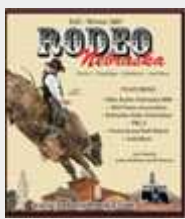


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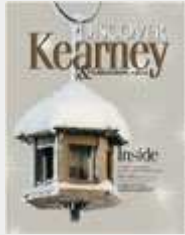


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If you experienced amazing care and caring from a nurse, you can find a nomination form at the NCFN Web site [www.center4nursing.com](http://www.center4nursing.com).

Letters will be sent to every nurse who was nominated during National Nurses' Week, May 6-12.

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